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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated September 7, 2007, applicants have amended their claims as set forth above. Support for these amendments can be found throughout applicants' specification and, in particular, in Figure 3 and paragraphs [0089] and [0090] of applicants' published U.S. application.

These amendments are believed to overcome the Examiner's §102(b) rejection based on Holcomb, U.S. Patent No. 3,865,468. Put simply, Holcomb does not disclose a housing which surrounds an optical system except where light enters and leaves the system, does not disclose a switching mechanism that occupies a portion of the exterior surface of the housing, and does not disclose a binocular having two barrels and a bridge where a switching mechanism occupies a portion of the exterior surface of the bridge.

In view of these considerations, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of their application.

Respectfully submitted,

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